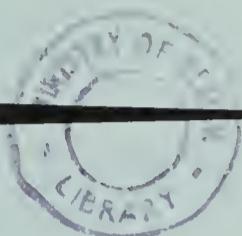


**Borough Council of Morpeth**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**of the**

**MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR**



# **1961**



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1961.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Morpeth.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour of presenting to you my report for the year 1961.

According to the Registrar-General's estimate, the Borough's population at mid-1961 remained the same as in 1960. This seems rather surprising in view of the fact that the number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 54 and private enterprise building produced 254 new houses, of which many were bought by people previously resident outside the town.

The total number of births was 235, compared with 217 in 1960 and this gives a standard birth-rate of 20.19 per 1,000 of the population, while the average birth-rate for England and Wales was 17.4 per 1,000.

Stillbirths totalled only 3, this being 4 fewer than in the previous year, giving a still-birth rate of 12.6 per 1,000 live and still births, compared with the national average of 18.7.

The number of deaths was 181, 13 more than in the previous year. This gives a standard death-rate of 11.93 per 1,000 which is practically the same as the rate for the country as a whole.

The infantile mortality rate is less satisfactory as there were 6 deaths, as against 4 in 1960, which gives a rate of 25.53 per 1,000 live births, while the national rate was 21.4.

It should be noted, however, that the total number involved is very small and, where this is so, a variation of two in the number produces a big variation in the rate per 1,000.

The number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis increased from 2 in 1960 to 5 in 1961 and there were 3 deaths from this disease, giving a death-rate of 0.25 per 1,000 which, regrettably, is higher than the national average.

The number of deaths from malignant neoplasms was lower by 4, than in 1960, so that the death-rate from this cause was slightly lower in Morpeth than in the country as a whole.

By the end of 1961, the original slum clearance programme was virtually completed as far as official and legal action was concerned but, owing to the temporary interruption of Council house building, little progress was made during the year with re-housing the tenants of unfit houses. At the end of the year, 44 households in Clearance Areas or Individual Unfit Houses still awaited re-housing and 15 huts at the Common Camp were still occupied. This position is, however, likely to be much improved in 1962.

One further Clearance Area is under consideration and may have to be dealt with, and a few additional houses may require action to close or demolish them but the total numbers involved will be small.

During the year, I have greatly appreciated the help and co-operation so freely given me, as always, by the Public Health Inspector and all departments of the Council. In conclusion I wish to thank the Council for the consideration members have extended to me.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C.B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Borough of Morpeth.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health

CATHERINE B. McGREGOR,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer

KATHLEEN DICK,  
M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

FRANK K. PERKINS,  
M.I.M., C.E., M.R.S.H.  
Retired 30th June, 1961.

Public Health Inspector (Meat)

J. G. SIMPSON,  
M.A.P.H.I.

Offices of the Medical Officer

146, Station Road, Ashington

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Ashington 2287

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Morpeth 36



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SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

There is no change to report in the boundaries of the Borough, or, rather surprisingly, in its estimated population.

During 1961, a further 254 houses were built by private enterprise and, regrettably, only 2 by the Council but Council house building will be resumed in 1962. It is of some interest to note that, in the past five years, i.e. 1957-1961 inclusive, the population has increased by 1,190 the number of inhabited houses by 434, the rateable value by £31,593 and the product of a penny rate by almost £97.

No new industry has been introduced and the types of employment available remain unchanged.

Morpeth continues to attract many visitors during the summer months and the volume of traffic passing through the town increases every year. It is very regrettable that the construction of a by-pass seems still to be indefinitely postponed.

Area in Acres .....	2, 213
Registrar-General's estimate of residentpopulation mid 1961 .....	11,990
One Penny Rate Produces .....	£595-9-0d.
Rateable Value .....	£149,922.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1961) .....	3,686.
Total no. of houses owned by Local Authority ....	1,437.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(the figures in brackets are the figures for England and Wales).

Live Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	118	108	226
Illegitimate	6	3	9
	124	111	235

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	19.6
Standard Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 1.03)	20.19 (17.4)

Still Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	2	3

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	12.6 (18.7)
--	-------------

DEATHS.

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
181	93	88

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	15.1
Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.73)	11.93 (12.0)
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil (0.33)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.      Male    Female.

Legitimate	2	3
Illegitimate	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	3

Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	25.53 (21.4)
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	22.12
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	111.11

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.      Male    Female.

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	2	2
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births)	17.02 (15.5)	

Deaths of Infants under 1 week      Male    Female.

Deaths of infants under 1 week	2	1
Early Necnataal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	12.77	

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births).	25.21
---	-------

The Registrar-General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATH 1961.

		Male	Female.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	2
2.	Tuberculosis, (other forms)	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	1	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infection	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1
11.	" " , Lung and Bronchus	4	-
12.	" " , Breast	-	2
13.	" " , Uterus	-	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	6
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1
16.	Diabetes	-	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	14
18.	Coronary Disease (Angina)	19	11
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	3
20.	Other Heart Diseases	19	28
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	5	-
22.	Influenza	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	7	5
24.	Bronchitis	4	3
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations	-	2
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	6	6
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-
34.	All other accidents	4	1
35.	Suicide	1	-
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>88</b>

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1961.

Cause.	Total Number	% of total Deaths.
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	87	48.07
Malignant Neoplasms	24	13.26
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	22	12.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>73.48</b>

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	Under 1 day	1-6 days	1 wk.	2 wk.	3 weeks	Under 4 mths	1-3 mths	4-6 mths	7-9 mths	10-11 mths	Under 12 months
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Neonatal Cold Syndrome	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Abnormality	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Birth injury	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Asphyxia (accident)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	2	1	1	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	6

The following table shows the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961.
Infantile deaths										
under 1 year	7	3	8	4	7	2	5	6	4	6

Infantile										
Mortality per										
1,000 live births	33.49	15.79	38.10	19.51	34.48	10.31	22.03	27.03	18.43	25.33

SECTION B.GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are now available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:

Specimens sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
General Practitioners	Throat swabs for pathogenic organisms	4	1
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	-	22
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Virus examination	-	24
General Practitioner	Faeces for tape-worm	1	-
General Practitioner	Blood for Widal	-	1

Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council which is the local health authority. Six drivers are employed at the Morpeth Depot where there are three ambulances and a sitting case car.

The area served includes the Borough of Morpeth, the western part of the Morpeth Rural District and parts of the Castle Ward Rural District.

Nursing in the Home.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946 the Northumberland County Council is the authority solely and directly responsible for Home Nursing Services.

Three nurses are stationed in Morpeth. Their work includes both general nursing and midwifery, and they serve the Borough and adjacent parts of the Morpeth Rural District.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Health Centre in Gashouse Lane. The services include Infant Welfare, Antenatal, Relaxation classes Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Speech Therapy and Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics and dental treatment for school and pre-school children and expectant mothers.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held once a month at Common Camp Morpeth.

## 6.

SECTION C.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.Water.

Drinking water for the Borough is obtained from Tynemouth Corporation Water Undertaking.

The supply was found sufficient for all demands. Eight samples were taken for bacteriological examination, all of which were satisfactory.

At the end of the year there remained a small number of houses the supply to which was drawn from an external standpipe. Action is to be taken where appropriate to have these provided with an internal supply.

The water from Tynemouth supply is slightly amber in colour due to natural causes at the source of supply, but this does not affect the drinking quality of the water.

New mains were laid by the Tynemouth Water Undertaking as follows:

Size of Main	Length
6 inches	2,097 yards
4 inches	374 yards
3 inches	1,361 yards

The additional mains were laid in connection with private and council housing development.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Year ending 31st December, 1961.

	No. of Inspections during the year.	No. of defects or contraventions of byelaws.	No. of informal notices served.	Defects remedied by informal action.	No. of statutory notices served.	Defects remedied by Statutory Action.	Legal Proceedings.		
<u>Housing.</u>									
Structural defects	301	33	4	19	(One outstanding at end of year. (13 in Slum Clearance.)				
Defective food store	54	13	-	-	} -13 in Slum Clearance.)	} -13 in Slum Clearance.)	}		
Dampness	55	21	5	8					
Overcrowding	54	-	-	-					
<u>Water Supply.</u>									
Insufficient	54	5	5	-	( Slum Clearance).				
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>									
Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Unsatisfactory	73	19	1	1	(18 in Slum Clearance).				
<u>Drainage</u>									
Insufficient	72	18	-	-	(Slum Clearance).				
Defective	7	7	7	7	-	-	-		
<u>General.</u>									
Shops (other than food)	34	7	5	7	-	-	-		
Food Premises	481	10	8	10	-	-	-		
Slaughter houses	622	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Temporary dwellings	21	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Keeping of animals	40	8	3	8	-	-	-		
Defective refuse con- tainers	53	53	53	53	-	-	-		
Offensive accumulations	17	17	8	17	-	-	-		
Smoke Nuisances	3	3	3	3	-	-	-		
Total	1941	214	102	133	-	-	-		

Complaints.

One hundred and thirty-six complaints were received during the year, all of which were dealt with. No case arose requiring resort to statutory action for abatement of nuisance.

Other Visits and Inspections under the Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961.

Building sites.	119
Drains tested.	449
Sewage disposal works.	25
Public Conveniences.	71
Market.	26
Schools.	10
Places of entertainment.	3
Rivers and streams.	42
Courts, yards and passages.	31
Disinfections.	15
Disinfestations.	24
Slum Clearance sites.	22
Refuse tips.	26
Council owned houses.	17
Applications for Council houses.	31

Smoke Abatement.

During the year no serious emission of smoke from industrial or domestic chimneys arose. Only in three instances was it necessary to have consultations for emission of fumes from a factory chimney, and smoke from a railway engine.

Smoke nuisances are not a serious problem in the Borough.

Verminous Premises.

During the year 21 complaints of insect infestations were received, all of which were dealt with by the Public Health Department. The types of infestations are shown in the following table:-

Species.	No. of Complaints.
Bed Bugs.	2
Cockroaches	12
Woodworm	2
Wasps	5
Total	21

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

There are no additional licensed pet shops in the Borough register. The two existing premises continue to function satisfactorily and on very few occasions was it necessary to intervene in the conduct of the business, the proprietors responding to advice given by the Public Health Inspector.

Rag Flock Act, 1951.

There are no premises dealing in Rag Flock on the Borough register.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Destruction of rats and mice received due attention during the year. Eighty-two complaints were received, all of which were dealt with. Many inspections and 'follow-up' visits were made to private dwellings, business premises, farms, Council owned properties, and the banks of the river Wansbeck and other streams throughout the Borough to detect and deal with any infestation. The town refuse tip at Quarry Woods demanded a considerable amount of the rodent operator's time. This was not unexpected, owing to the fact that conditions at this site are ideal for the support of a rat population. However, many successful treatments were carried out using approved poison baits, fumigation with poison gas, and other methods under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector which kept the situation under control.

The sewerage system of the Borough which has been greatly extended over the past few years was given the required twice yearly treatment, with poisoned baits, with good results. A full detailed report on the whole of the year's work on rodent control was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Pests Control Division, as required.

Some details of the work done under the Act are as follows:-

Classification	Inspections	Treatments	Recovered	
			Rats	Mice.
Dwelling Houses	1723	61	65	70
Business Premises	664	7	18	41
Agricultural	35	-	-	-
Refuse Site	52	continuous	164	-
Council Properties	302	19	62	32
Rivers and Streams	10	9	14	-
Sewers	9	2	37	-
Sewage Plants	3	3	20	-
 Totals	 2798	 101	 380	 143

Destruction of Moles.

Outbreaks of moles on Council owned lands were dealt with by a specialist mole catcher retained by the Council for this work.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Considerable extensions to the Borough's sewerage system were constructed during the year to serve the continued building on new estates. Many new drains were added to the town system as a consequence of this, while alterations to existing dwellings and business premises added their quota to the ever increasing volume of sewage arriving at the purification works.

The first stage of the improvements and alterations to the Sewage Disposal Works and New Pumping station which were commenced during 1959 at an estimated cost of approximately £70,000. became fully operational during the year.

Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing.

The Town's refuse is collected daily by direct labour and disposed of at Quarry Woods site which lies approximately one mile distant from the town centre.

Street cleansing, which is also done by direct labour, has greatly increased owing to the growing housing estates in the Borough.

The proportion of combustible material in the volume of refuse continues to be considerable, and, from time to time, fire has broken out on the tip. These outbreaks, however, were quickly brought under control by the use of a power-driven pump and hoses, which are kept permanently on the site, water being drawn from the river.

Litter in the Newmarket and Bridge Street areas is removed daily.

Reorganisation of refuse collection was carried out when the new 13 cubic yard Karrer Dual Tip Refuse Collection Vehicle was brought into operation during April. This vehicle was found most satisfactory for the additional collections on increasing private and council housing developments.

Rivers and Nuisance.

The River Wansbeck and other streams flowing through the Borough were inspected from time to time for any pollution. One stream was found polluted, the cause arising from outside the Borough. This was promptly dealt with.

In certain places, the river Wansbeck continue to be a source of trouble from discarded household articles, garden refuse and other domestic products, which have to be cleared away at considerable cost to the Council. Unfortunately, the perpetrators of this nuisance are never found.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the Borough.

Swimming Baths.

There are no swimming baths in the Borough.

Schools.

There are six primary schools, two secondary schools, one grammar school for boys and one grammar school for girls, one commercial college and a preparatory school in the Borough.

As in past years, the standard of hygiene in the sanitary accommodation, and in the storage and preparation of food in the schools' kitchens, was very satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959.1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	2	7	1	Nil
(2) Factories not included in 1 in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	24	2	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers' premises).	8	5	1	Nil
Total	57	36	4	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.					Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Renedied	To H. M. Inspector	Referred By. H. M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness	2	2	nil	nil	nil	nil
Overcrowding	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Unreasonable temperature	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Inadequate ventilation	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Ineffective drainage of floors	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Sanitary Conveniences (a)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
insufficient	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	nil	nil	nil	nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total	4	4	nil	nil	nil	nil

12.

SECTION D.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1961.

Houses completed during the year.

a) By Local Authority	2
b) By other bodies or persons	254

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	9
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	3
3. Houses closed, not demolished	3
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above.	Nil

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either the Housing or P.H. Acts.

1. By informal action	19
2. By owners, following statutory notice	Nil
3. By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched

1. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	Nil
---	-----

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

<u>A. Discretionary Grants.</u>	<u>No. of separate Houses.</u>
1. Applications submitted to Local Authority	8
2. Applications rejected	-
3. Applications approved	8
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£121
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme.	135

B. Standard Grants.

	<u>During the Year</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
1. Number of separate houses for which grants were made during the year	12+1 (L.A.)	27+1 (L.A.)
2. Number of houses so provided with:		
a) Bath or shower	10+1 (L.A.)	21+1 (L.A.)
b) Wash Hand Basin	6+1 (L.A.)	17+1 (L.A.)
c) Hot water supply	10+1 (L.A.)	21+1 (L.A.)
d) Water closet	8+1 (L.A.)	17+1 (L.A.)
e) Food store	4+1 (L.A.)	12+1 (L.A.)

Slum Clearance.

During the year under review the last slum clearance area in the original five year programme was dealt with namely the six houses in Wallace Place. The order was unopposed and was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

In addition, seven individual unfit houses were dealt with. These were all made the subject of demolition orders.

From the commencement of the programme up to the end of 1961, the necessary legal action either by Clearance Orders, Demolition Orders or Closing Orders has been taken in respect of 196 houses of which 86 have been demolished and 46 have been closed.

At the end of the year 44 households in Clearance Areas or Individual Unfit houses awaited rehousing, and 16 families still occupied 15 huts at the Common Camp.

SECTION E.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Milk Supply.

All milk sold in the Borough is designated milk being either Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised.

Dealers licences are now issued by Northumberland County Council and sampling of milk is carried out by the County Public Health Inspector.

The County Inspector has provided the information given in the following table, showing the number of samples taken and the results obtained:-

Designation				Test				Result			
				Passed				Failed			
T.T.	T.T. PAST.	PAST	STER.	M.B.	PH. S.	TURB.	BIO.	M.B.	PHOS.	TURB.	BIO.
4	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	1	-	-	-
-	3	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	7	-	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Ice Cream.

At the close of the year there were 42 premises on the Borough register, for the sale of ice cream. Two of the vendors sold loose ice cream, one manufacturing outside the Borough.

Registered premises were frequently inspected during the year and conditions of storage and handling were generally satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

14.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
	Cows.				
Number killed.	1433	24	159	6649	1414
Number inspected.	1433	24	159	6649	1414
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	14	-
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	145	1	2	46	60
Percentage of No. affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci.	10.1%	4.2%	1.26%	0.9%	4.24%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	-	-	-
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned.	5	-	-	-	2
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	0.42%	4.2%	-	-	0.14%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

The total number of all animals for the year was 9679 as against 8650 for 1960, an increase of 1029.

In 1951, the total was 6086 which constitutes an increase of more than 50% in ten years.

When the proposed new slaughter house becomes operational, it is probable the numbers will further increase.

Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection.

The inspection of meat both at the slaughterhouse and in the retail butchers shops was given fullest attention during the year. Slaughtering at Low Stanners Slaughter houses went on daily including Bank Holidays and Saturday mornings.

Occasional Sunday Slaughtering was permitted for emergency reasons. The major part of the slaughtering continues to be done by three free-lance slaughtermen. The slaughterhouses were redecorated internally during the year, and maintainance works were carried out on the building.

The yard was cleansed each night after slaughtering, and thoroughly washed down twice a week, or more often, as required. Animal waste is removed by a local market gardener, while condemned and surrendered meat and offals are removed by a by-product manufacturing firm.

Plans for enlarging and re-conditioning of the slaughter houses were prepared and approved and work is expected to commence in 1962. When the extended building becomes operational, new arrangements may need to be made to regulate the days and times when slaughtering may be done, the management and control of the premises, and charges to be made to those using the premises.

During the year 17 slauthermens licences were approved for renewal by the Council. No new licences were applied for.

#### Shops Act 1950.

Thirty-four inspections were made during the year under the provisions of this Act, relative to the comfort and welfare of persons employed in shops, and the provision of sanitary accommodation. No case arose requiring statutory action.

#### Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

All agricultural holdings falling within the provisions of this Act were surveyed during the year and only in two instances were the sanitary provisions found to be somewhat inadequate. The owner of one holding employing a rather large labour force on green produce, undertook to provide modern toilet facilities on the farm. One other farmer, who engages extra labour during harvest only, arranged to erect an approved type of temporary toilet on such occasions.

#### Food Premises, Food Hygiene Regulations and Educational Activity.

Premises in the Borough wherein food is prepared for sale or sold for human consumption were given due attention during the year with considerable and satisfactory progress being made in the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Food retailers generally are now appreciating the value of having a continuous supply of hot water on tap. One of the main difficulties encountered is not so much the installation of a water heating unit, but in finding a convenient and practical drainage point. This is particularly the situation in old towns, where shop premises are so arranged that it is sometimes necessary, but not always practical, to go through other premises for drainage. So far, however, where such problems have arisen, the Public Health Inspector by discussion and advice with owners of premises and builders, has successfully dealt with them.

Many visits have been made to the various food premises in the Borough and patience with persistence has brought its reward in general improvement, though this does not permit any relaxation in the continual supervision of the situation. Impromptu talks to management and staff, and the issue of printed matter together with adequate inspection has done much to bring about a commendable standard of hygiene. It is pleasing to report that no statutory action was required during the year.

#### Food Inspection.

During the year, the following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption viz:-

Commodity	Reason for Condemnation	Weight	
		lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meats	Spoilage and under processing	205	11
Tinned Fruit	Spoilage and under processing	72	7
Butter	Rancid	30	0
Margarine	Rancid	-	8
Cooking fat	Rancid	4	0
Tinned Milk	Blown tins	6	0
Sweetbreads	Decomposition	7	0
Ox Kidneys	Decomposition	53	0
Bacon	Malodorous	8	0
Ham	Malodorous	14	0
Garnon	Malodorous	.2	8
Biscuits	Mouldy	33	0
Total Weight:-		436	2

Treatment of Condemned Foodstuffs.

All condemned and surrendered foodstuffs were disposed of either by incineration or deep burial at the refuse disposal tip, or, where appropriate, collected for manufacture into non-edible by-products. Meat and meat products were stained with an approved green vegetable dye in accordance with the Meat Staining Regulations, to prevent their improper use.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

During the year one case of an alleged contravention of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 was referred to the Council for consideration and appropriate action.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES

OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER  
AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1	5	10	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	Total
	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	4	9	14	24	34	44	54	64	74	over	
Pneumonia	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	10	142	117	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	270
Total	10	144	118	1	-	-	1	2	1	-	277

Measles.

As was to be expected, following its absence from the district in 1960, Measles produced an epidemic in 1961. The outbreak began early in the year and was most prevalent in the months of March (77 cases), April (86 cases) and May (40 cases). Thereafter it subsided quite rapidly although the last cases were not notified until 23rd August. The outbreak followed the usual pattern, affecting mostly the young children, and only one patient was over 9 years of age. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

No case of this disease has occurred in the Borough in the past 13 years and no death from this cause has occurred in the past 15 years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 188 pre-school and 6 school children received a primary course of immunisation while 263 pre-school and 53 school children received re-inforcing injections.

Practically all children receiving a primary course of immunisation are now given the triple antigen which gives protection, also, against whooping-cough and tetanus. Re-inforcing injections with triple antigen are given about 18 months later and further injections with diphtheria tetanus antigen are given about the time of school entry.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Acceptance of this form of protection against Poliomyelitis continued at a fairly satisfactory level, particularly for infants and young children. During the year 3,191 persons completed the primary course of two injections and 2,442 received a third injection. In the spring of the year, a fourth injection was recommended for children between the ages of 5 years and 12 years, whose third injection had been given not less than one year previously. As a result of this, 5,609 children received a fourth injection.

These figures refer to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

TUBERCULOSIS.NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1961.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Resp. M.	Non- Resp. F.	Total	Resp. M.	Non- Resp. F.	Total		
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
45 - 54 years	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	2
75 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	2	5	1	2	-	-	3

There was an increase in the number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis in 1961, when 5 cases were notified compared with 2 in 1960. No case of non-respiratory tuberculosis was discovered.

There were 3 deaths from the respiratory form of the disease and two of these were not notified prior to death.

This gives a death-rate of 0.25 per 1,000 of the population.

The corresponding rate of England and Wales was 0.065 per 1,000 of the population.

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLSMS DURING 1961.

Site.	Male							Female.												
	0 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over.	Total	0 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over.	Total
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Lung & Bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
Gall-bladder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kidney	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colon	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Rectum	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Penis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haematopoietic system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	3	13	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	4	1	11

Malignant Neoplasm of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Morpeth                            0.334 per 1,000  
 Death Rate in England and Wales                0.494 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth                            1.668 per 1,000  
 Death Rate in England and Wales                1.670 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth                            2.002 per 1,000  
 Death Rate in England and Wales                2.164 per 1,000

